

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

~~an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information;~~

~~a first component of actual text of the electronic book,~~

~~a second component, wherein the second component is a links menu to a plurality of additional components,~~

~~wherein the first component is configured such that clicking on the first component of actual text of the electronic book creates a link to the second component;~~
and

a menu system, the menu system including:

a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and

a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links, pronunciation links, data base links, other book links, and book selection links.

2-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 1, wherein each component of actual text on a page of the electronic book may have one or more links to additional components ~~another component~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein a desired link type is selected by highlighting the desired link type from the link type menu with a cursor and operating a select button, and wherein when the desired link type is selected, all links of the selected type ~~corresponding linked components~~ that exist on a displayed page of the electronic book ~~being displayed~~ are highlighted.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the links of the selected type ~~linked components~~ are highlighted by ~~displaying the linked components~~ in a first color that is different from other colors ~~a second color for remaining information on the displayed page of the electronic book~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the links of the selected link type ~~linked components~~ are displayed in a font that is different from other fonts on the displayed page of the electronic book ~~a font used to display the page~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the links of the selected link type ~~linked components~~ are highlighted by displaying the links ~~linked components~~ in one of a bold typeface, an italics typeface, and an underlined typeface.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein a desired link is activated by selecting a desired highlighted link from the displayed page of the electronic book component using [[a]] the cursor and operating [[a]] the select button.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for linking electronic files to electronic books, comprising:

identifying a ~~[[first]]~~ selectable text element that is a section of ~~[[the]]~~ actual text in a first electronic book;

associating an ~~a first~~ electronic file with the ~~[[first]]~~ selectable text element, wherein the associating step creates an ~~a first~~ electronic link;

repeating the identifying and associating steps, ~~thereby the repeated steps~~ creating multiple electronic links, each electronic link having a corresponding selectable text element and a corresponding electronic file;

~~activating the first electronic link by selecting the first selectable text element, the activating step causing the first electronic file to be displayed; and~~

providing a ~~menu, wherein the menu includes a show links menu, [[and]] wherein~~ the ~~[[show]]~~ links menu is capable of displaying displays all of the available corresponding electronic links associated with a selected one of the selectable text elements ~~element~~ in the first electronic book ~~[[link]]~~.

wherein the links menu displays all of the available corresponding electronic link types for a displayed page in the first electronic book, and, when a desired electronic link type is selected from the links menu, only the available corresponding electronic links of the selected link type are displayed on the page.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic books are stored in an electronic book unit.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the electronic book unit[[,.]] comprises:

a memory that stores the electronic books and associated ~~selected~~ electronic files;

a display that displays the electronic books and the electronic files;

a control unit adapted to receive commands from a user; and

a controller that controls operation of the electronic book unit and activation of the electronic links.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the [[first]] selectable text elements ~~element~~ is a location in an index of the first electronic book, wherein activation of the [[first]] corresponding electronic link displays a page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the index.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the [[first]] selectable text elements ~~element~~ is a location in a table of contents of the first electronic book, and wherein activation of the [[first]] corresponding electronic link displays a page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the table of contents.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the ~~[[first]]~~ selectable text elements ~~element~~ is one of a word and a phrase in the first electronic book, and wherein the ~~[[first]]~~ corresponding ~~electronic~~ electronic file is a location in a dictionary that defines the word or phrase.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the electronic book unit includes an audio module ~~modules~~, wherein when the ~~[[first]]~~ corresponding electronic link is activated, the audio module ~~[[unit]]~~ provides an audio presentation giving a pronunciation of the word or phrase.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the dictionary is a foreign language dictionary, and wherein the electronic file is displayed in a foreign language.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected foreign language selection feature, and wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected foreign language dictionary based on an input from the foreign language selection feature.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic book unit is connected to a telecommunications network, and wherein the ~~[[first]]~~ corresponding electronic file is stored in a database in the telecommunications network.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the telecommunications network includes one of a telephone system, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital satellite television system, a fiber optic system, an Ethernet, and a wireless television system.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the database is a part of an Internet web site.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein activating the [[first]] corresponding electronic link provides access to the Internet web site.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the [[first]] corresponding electronic file is a ~~second~~ location in a second electronic book.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first and the second electronic books are stored in an electronic book unit.

45-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein, upon selection of one of the selectable text elements, the [[first]] corresponding electronic file is displayed overlaying in an overlay on a page of the first electronic book [[link]] having the selected selectable text element ~~first location~~.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein, upon selection of one of the selectable text elements, the [[first]] corresponding electronic file is displayed side by side with a page of the first electronic book [[link]] having the selected [[first]] selectable text element.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the activating step comprises operating a pointing device and a cursor to highlight one of the [[first]] selectable text element and operating a select button to select one of the [[first]] selectable text element.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding [[first]] electronic file is an audio presentation.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding [[first]] electronic file is a video presentation.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding [[first]] electronic file is a location where products can be ordered and purchased.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding [[first]] electronic file is a location where books can be ordered and purchased.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the books are electronic books.

56-79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an electronic book, comprising:

displaying a portion of the electronic book including a plurality of selection options, ~~wherein each selection option is a piece of actual text in the electronic book;~~
in response to a selection of one of the selection options from a user, displaying a ~~[[links]] menu system~~ including one or more links,
the menu system including:

a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and
a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links, pronunciation links, data base links, other book links, and book selection links,
wherein the one or more links provide access to additional content; and

in response to a selection of a link from the links menu from the user, retrieving additional content associated with the selected link and providing the additional content to the user.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising:

providing additional content that is internal to the electronic book.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising:

providing additional content that is external to the electronic book.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is audio content.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is audio-video content.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is text content.

86. (Currently Amended) A method for creating links, comprising:

receiving a selection of content associated with an electronic book from a user,
wherein the content is a piece of the actual text of the electronic book;

receiving a selection of additional content from the user; [[and]]

in response to a request from the user, creating a link between the selected
content associated with the electronic book and the selected additional content;

repeating the creating a link step, thereby creating multiple electronic links; and
providing a links menu, wherein the links menu is capable of displaying all of the
available corresponding electronic links associated with the selected content of the
electronic book,

wherein the links menu displays all of the corresponding electronic link types for a displayed page in the electronic book, and, when a desired electronic link type is selected from the links menu, only the available corresponding electronic links of the selected type are displayed on the page.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, further comprising:

creating a links menu;

inserting the created link in the links menu.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link provides access from the selected content associated with the electronic book to the selected additional content.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link provides access from the selected additional content to the selected content associated with the electronic book.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link is a two-way link.

91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book viewer;

an electronic book, the electronic book ~~including components of digital data that represent information~~ stored in a computer readable medium in the electronic book viewer; and

links among ~~[[the]]~~ components of the electronic book ~~digital data;~~ wherein when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component is located in the electronic book; and wherein the second component is located in a data repository at a distant operations center; and wherein selection of the first component causes the second component to be displayed on the electronic book viewer.

93. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book viewer;

an electronic book, the electronic book ~~including components of digital data that represent information~~ stored in a computer readable medium in the electronic book viewer; and

links among ~~[[the]]~~ components of the electronic book ~~digital data;~~ wherein, when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component is located in the electronic book; ~~[[and]]~~ wherein the second component is located in a distant data repository accessible by a server on a network; and wherein selection of the first component causes the second component to be displayed on the electronic book viewer.

94. (Previously Presented) An electronic book system according to claim 93, wherein the network is the Internet.

95. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book viewer;

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information being stored in a computer readable medium in the electronic book viewer; and

links among [[the]] components of the electronic book digital data; wherein when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component ~~components~~ is located in the electronic book; [[and]] wherein the second component is located in a distant data repository, the data repository including a list of available books related to the first component, wherein at least one of the books may be ordered for delivery; and wherein selection of the first component causes the second component to be displayed on the electronic book viewer.

96. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 95, wherein the electronic books are delivered by transmission via a telecommunications medium.

97. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 96, wherein the telecommunications medium is selected from a group consisting of a publicly switched telephone network, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital

satellite system, a fiber optic system, an Ethernet network, and a wireless television system.

98. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book viewer;

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information stored in a computer readable medium in the electronic book viewer; and

links among [[the]] components of the electronic book digital data;
wherein, when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component is located in the electronic book; [[and]]
wherein the second component is [[an]] a network site including an address of one or more news groups related to the first component; and wherein selection of the first component causes the second component to be displayed on the electronic book viewer.

99. (Currently Amended) An electronic book distribution system, comprising:

a distant operation center, wherein the operation center is configured to store:

a plurality of electronic books stored in a computer-readable medium; ~~the electronic books including components of digital data that represent information;~~ and

a plurality of links corresponding to at least one of the plurality of electronic books, wherein each of the plurality of links connects a link links among a first and a second component of digital data of [[a]] the corresponding electronic book to a

second component; wherein, when the plurality of links are activated, ~~[[a]]~~ the first components component are ~~[is]]~~ linked to ~~[[a]]~~ the second components component; and
wherein the operation center is configured to allow the selection and distribution of the links separate from the electronic book to which it corresponds.

100. (Currently Amended) The electronic book system of claim 99, wherein the plurality of links are purchasable separately from the electronic book.

101. (Currently Amended) The electronic book system of claim 99, wherein the plurality of links are transmitted separately from delivery of the electronic book.

102. (Currently Amended) The electronic book system of claim 1, ~~wherein the first component is located in the electronic book~~ ~~[[data]]~~; and wherein the components in the links menu are ~~second component is~~ electronically stored ~~located~~ at a location where electronic books are orderable and purchasable.

103. (Currently Amended) A method for using electronic links in an electronic book system, the electronic book system including an electronic book displayable on a display, the method comprising:

displaying a linked first component as a piece of actual text of the electronic book;

selecting the linked first component; and

displaying a second component linked to the first component, wherein the second component is located in one selected from a group consisting of a data repository in a remote operations center and a data repository accessible by a server on a network ~~a links menu to at least a third component.~~

104. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 103, wherein a third component is selectable via ~~[[the]]~~ a links menu, and wherein selecting the third component displays the third component, the third component being related to the first component of the electronic book.

105. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 103, wherein the second component is located in ~~[[a]]~~ the data repository at an operations center.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the second component is located in ~~[[a]]~~ the data repository accessible by a server on a network.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein the network is the Internet.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the second component is a network site including an address of one or more news groups related to the first component.

109-110. (Canceled)

111. (Currently Amended) A method for using electronic links in an electronic book system, the electronic book system including an electronic book displayable on a display, the method comprising:

displaying a linked first component of the electronic book stored in a computer readable medium in an electronic book viewer;;

selecting the first component; and

displaying a second component linked to the first component; wherein links linking the first and the second components are refreshed by data provided by an external facility.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the external facility is one of an operations center and a network site.